



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

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Dempsey Benton, Secretary

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William W. Lawrence, Jr., MD, Acting Director

October 17, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Hospital ED
State Facilities
LME Medical Directors
Hospital CEO
NCPA
NCHA
NCCEP

FROM: Brent Myers, MD, NC College of Emergency Physicians President, Harold Carmel, MD,
NC Psychiatric Association President

THROUGH: Michael Lancaster, MD, Chief, Clinical Policy DMH/DD/SAS *ML*
Patti Forest, MD, MBA, DMA Medical Director *Patti Forest*

RE: Medical Clearance of Patients with Psychiatric and/or Addictive Disease Emergencies in
the Emergency Department

A combined workgroup of physicians from North Carolina's emergency departments, state facilities, and psychiatrists in practice has developed the attached document for guidance in addressing issues of medical clearance for behavioral emergencies presenting to emergency departments. We support these guidelines and encourage training in their implementation and use across the state.

It has been evident that the lack of consistent guidelines for medical clearance has added to the wait times in our emergency departments for many of our consumers needing transfer to state psychiatric facilities. It is the goal of these guidelines to offer consistent expectations for our physicians in our state facilities and our emergency departments. These guidelines will apply for admission to all of our psychiatric and ADATC facilities.

It is expected that these guidelines will be widely disseminated and training will occur in each facility and emergency department prior to their full implementation. While the use of these guidelines can begin immediately, formal training and implementation will begin shortly and will be completed by December 1, 2007.

Please review the guidelines carefully, and contact Michael.Lancaster@ncmail.net with any questions.

Attachment

cc: Secretary Dempsey Benton
DMH/DD/SAS Executive Leadership Team
LME Directors
State Facility Directors
LME Team



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